

Boston Public Library

black is...

Books about the African American Experience
Booklist for Adults | 2017



BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR

Before You Judge Me: The Triumph and Tragedy of Michael Jackson's Last Days

by Tavis Smiley

Tavis Smiley tells the story of Michael Jackson's last four months.

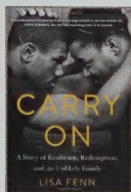
BIOG ML420.J175 S65 2016x

The Black Calhouns: From Civil War to Civil Rights with One African American Family

by Gail Lumet Buckley

The author, the daughter of Lena Horne, tells the story of the northern and southern branches of her family.

BIOG CT274.C34 B83 2016x



Carry On: A Story of Resilience, Redemption, and an Unlikely Family

By Lisa Fenn

The author, an ESPN producer, develops a bond with two disabled African American high school wrestlers.

BIOG GV1196.C76 F46 2016

Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race

by Margot Lee Shetterly

This is the true story of the "human computers," four African American mathematicians who used their talents to help launch astronauts and rockets into space.

BIOG QA27.5 .L44 2016

Once a Cop: The Street, the Law, Two Worlds, One Man

by Corey Pegues

The author, a former crack dealer and gang member, describes how he joined the New York City Police Department and became a community leader.

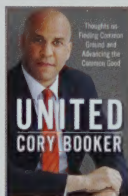
BIOG HV7911.P424 A3 2016

Sing for Your Life: A Story of Race, Music, and Family

by Daniel Bergner

In 2011, Ryan Speedo Green came from the inner city to successfully audition for the Metropolitan Opera.

BIOG ML420.G9152 B37 2016x



United: Thoughts on Forging Common Ground and Advancing the Common Good

by Cory Booker

United States Senator Cory Booker recommends easing the nation's current political discord by following the principles of empathy and solidarity.

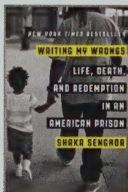
BIOG E901.1.B66 A3 2016

Walking with the Muses: A Memoir

by Pat Cleveland

The autobiography of 1970s African American international supermodel and Vogue cover girl Pat Cleveland.

BIOG HD8039.M772 U5365 2016



Writing My Wrongs: Life, Death, and Redemption in an American Prison

by Shaka Senghor

The author describes his journey from a crack dealer and ex-convict to a criminal justice advocate and mentor for at-risk youth.

BIOG E185.93.M5 S464 2016x

EXPRESSIONS



Black Gods of the Asphalt: Religion, Hip-Hop, and Street Basketball

by Onaje X. O. Woodbine

The author explores the ferocious basketball battles played on Boston's inner-city public courts.

GV887.3 .W66 2016

Blue Laws: Selected and Uncollected Poems, 1995–2015

by Kevin Young

A collection of poems from all nine of the author's previous works and other uncollected and unpublished works.

PS3575 .O798 A6 2016

Collected Poems: 1974–2004

by Rita Dove

A collection of thirty years of poetry by the distinguished African American poet.

PS3554.O884 A6 2016

I'm Judging You: The Do-Better Manual

by Luvvie Ajayi

A collection of essays by blogger Luvvie Ajayi, who writes about social media etiquette, pop culture, and the issue of race and the media.

PN6231.C142 A43 2016



Kill 'Em and Leave: Searching for James Brown and the American Soul

by James McBride

The author travels through South Carolina and Georgia and interviews scores of people to find the "real" James Brown.

ML420.B818 M33 2016x

The Red Rooster Cookbook: The Story of Food and Hustle in Harlem

by Marcus Samuelsson

The award-winning chef and author shares stories and southern and multicultural recipes from his Harlem restaurant.

TX725.A1 S344 2016



You Can't Touch My Hair: And Other Things I Still Have to Explain

by Phoebe Robinson

The author, a stand-up comedian and podcaster, shares her essays about race, pop culture, and gender.

PN2287.R715 A3 2016

HISTORY & CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

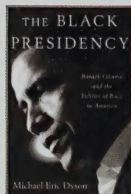


The Black Panthers: Portraits from an Unfinished Revolution

Edited by Bryan Shih and Yohuru Williams

To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Black Panther Party, the editors interview surviving Panthers and photograph them along with Panther memorabilia.

E185.615 .B54645 2016



**The Black Presidency:
Barack Obama and the
Politics of Race in America**
by Michael Eric Dyson

Michael Eric Dyson explores how President Obama's race impacted his presidency and the nation's identity.

E185.615 .D9449 2016x

**Blood at the Root:
A Racial Cleansing in America**

by Patrick Phillips

The little-known story of how over one thousand African Americans were forcibly removed from Forsyth County, Georgia, in 1912.

F292.F67 P47 2016

**In the Company of Women:
Inspiration and Advice from over
100 Makers, Artists, and Entrepreneurs**

by Grace Bonney

The author interviews over one hundred women throughout the world who started their own businesses and provides practical and inspirational advice for future entrepreneurs.

HD6057.5.U5 B66 2016

**For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood . . .
And the Rest of Y'all Too: Reality Pedagogy
and Urban Education**

by Christopher Emdin

The author's theory of reality pedagogy aims to help urban educators and students improve their performances.

LC5131 .E5 2016

**Invisible Man, Got the Whole World
Watching: A Young Black Man's Education**

by Mychal Denzel Smith

Mychal Denzel Smith explores coming of age during the Obama presidency, the ascendancy of LeBron James, and the death of Trayvon Martin.

E185.97 .S64 2016x

Known and Strange Things: Essays

by Teju Cole

A collection of over fifty essays about politics, photography, travel, history, and literature.

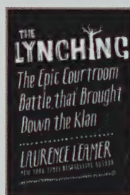
PR9387.9.C67 A6 2016

The Lives of Frederick Douglass

by Robert S. Levine

This revisionist biography provides new insights about Douglass's relationships with Thomas Auld, his former slave master, John Brown, and Abraham Lincoln.

E449.D75 L48 2016



**The Lynching: The Epic
Courtroom Battle That
Brought Down the Klan**

by Laurence Leamer

Laurence Leamer tells the story of the 1981 trial and conviction of two Alabama Klansmen who murdered a young black man.

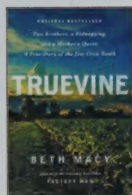
HV6465.A2 L43 2016x

**Nobody: Causalities of America's War
on the Vulnerable, from Ferguson to
Flint and Beyond**

by Marc Lamont Hill

This book provides insights on the intersection of race and class in America today.

HN90.S62 H55 2016



Truevine: Two Brothers, a Kidnapping, and a Mother's Quest: A True Story of the Jim Crow South

by Beth Macy

Two African American brothers are kidnapped, turned into circus performers, and eventually rescued by their mother.

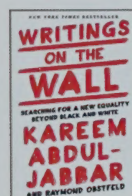
GV1834.7 .M33 2016x

We Are Not Such Things: The Murder of a Young American, a South African Township, and the Search for Truth and Reconciliation

by Justine van der Leun

This book tells the story of an American Fulbright Scholar and anti-apartheid activist who was murdered by residents in Cape Town. The murderers received amnesty and worked to establish an educational foundation.

DT1974.2 .V35 2016



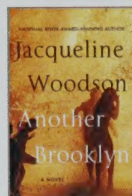
Writings on the Wall: Searching for a New Equality beyond Black and White

by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

The author, a former Los Angeles Laker basketball player, writes about his evolving views on social justice, race, music, and income inequality.

HN90.S6 A23 2016x

FICTION



Another Brooklyn: A Novel

by Jacqueline Woodson

August's encounter with an old friend causes her to remember her teen years in 1970s Brooklyn.

FICTION WOODSON J

Every Woman's Dream

by Mary Monroe

Lola and Joan, two lifelong friends, get involved in risky online dating games.

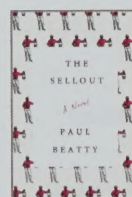
FICTION MONROE M

I Almost Forgot About You: A Novel

by Terry McMillan

Dr. Georgia Young has a great life, but, feeling dissatisfied and restless, she embarks on a major change.

FICTION MCMILLAN T



The Sellout

by Paul Beatty

This Booker Prize-winning satirical novel tells the story of a young African American man who ends up in a race trial that goes to the U.S. Supreme Court.

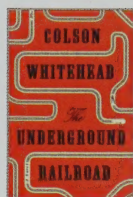
FICTION BEATTY P

A Sinful Calling

by Kimberla Lawson Roby

Dillon Whitfield Black, the secret son of Reverend Curtis Black, founds his own mega-church. When his sister Alicia joins the church, it causes family tension.

FICTION ROBY K



The Underground Railroad: A Novel

By Colson Whitehead

Two fugitive slaves, Cora and Caesar, try to escape via the Underground Railroad.

FICTION WHITEHEAD C

GRAPHIC



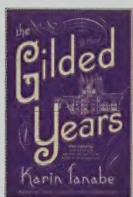
March: Book Three

By John Lewis
and Andrew Aydin

Congressman John Lewis, a Civil Rights veteran, concludes this autobiographical award-winning trilogy.

GRAPHIC MARCH

HISTORICAL



The Gilded Years: A Novel

By Karin Tanabe

As the only African American student in the class of 1897 at Vassar College, Anita Hemmings learns how the upper classes live.

FICTION TANABE K

Homegoing

By Yaa Gyasi

Two half-sisters are born in eighteenth-century Ghana. One marries a British colonial and raises educated children while the other becomes an American slave and later migrates to Harlem.

FICTION GYASI Y

INTERNATIONAL

And After Many Days: A Novel

By Jowhor Ile

In 1995, 17-year-old Paul Utu disappears in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. His family is left to grapple with the tragedy.

FICTION ILE J



Behold the Dreamers: A Novel

By Imbolo Mbue

In 2007, Jende Jonga and his son Neni, immigrants from Cameroon now living in Harlem, get positions in the household of Lehman Brothers senior executive Clark Edwards.

FICTION MBUE I

Here Comes the Sun: A Novel

By Nicole Dennis-Benn

Margot and Thandi, two sisters in Montego Bay, Jamaica, fight against developers who want to destroy their village to build a resort hotel.

FICTION DENNIS B N



The Queue: A Novel

By Basma Abdel Aziz

Following the Disgraceful Events, a failed popular uprising, a centralized authority called the Gate has risen to power and controls all aspects of daily life.

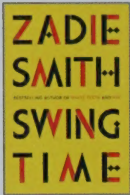
SCIFI FANTASY ABDAL B

The Reactive: A Novel

By Masande Ntshanga

Cecelia, Ruan, and HIV-positive Lindanathi work low-paying jobs, drift through parties, and observe the income disparities in the streets of Cape Town, South Africa.

FICTION NTSHANGA M



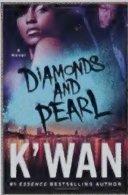
Swing Time

By Zadie Smith

Tracey and Aimee, two black English girls, dream of becoming dancers. Only one will succeed.

FICTION SMITH Z

URBAN



Diamonds and Pearl

By K'wan

Privileged Pearl Stone falls in love with former New Orleans hustler Diamond.

URBAN FICTION KWAN

The Doctor Is In

By Carl Weber and Brenda Hampton

Psychologist Dr. Kasen Phillips gets into a relationship with his clingy co-worker Voncile Harper.

URBAN FICTION WEBER C

MYSTERY



Charcoal Joe

By Walter Mosley

Private Investigator Ezekiel "Easy" Rawlins returns with a new murder mystery set in late-1960s Southern California.

MYSTERY MOSLEY W



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**Books about the African American Experience
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City of Boston

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Lower Mills Branch

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South End Branch

The cover is part of the Massachusetts Hip-Hop Archive at UMass Boston, a collection of almost 300 demo tapes featuring the biggest artists from Boston's early hip-hop scene. With assistance from the Boston Public Library this significant archive is being digitized.

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The Black Is Booklist is a list of recent books concerning the African American experience. It is published as part of the Boston Public Library's observance of Black History Month each year.

